



Application No. 10/521,952
Information Disclosure Statement Dated July 6, 2006
Attorney Docket No. 3824-050246

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit : 2874 Confirmation No. 2294
Application No. : 10/521,952
Applicants : **Jiangron QIU et al.**
Filed : January 21, 2005
Title : **FIBER ARRAY FOR OPTICAL
COMMUNICATION AND METHOD OF
MANUFACTURING THE FIBER ARRAY**
Examiner : Phan Th Palmer
Customer No. : 28289

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement together with a completed Form PTO/SB/08A and a copy of each reference cited along with an English-language Abstract thereof.

The foreign references listed on Form PTO/SB/08A were all cited in a Japanese Office Action dated April 7, 2006, in a counterpart Japanese application and are relevant for the reasons provided therein. A copy of the Japanese Office Action, along with an English-language translation thereof, is enclosed herewith.

The Japanese Office Action cited five references which are discussed hereinafter.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on date listed below.

Judy Eberle

(Name of Person Mailing Document)

Signature

07/06/2006
Date

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Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. JP 64-044403 to Nakamoto et al. is directed to an optical fiber array having guide grooves formed by a laser beam and optical fibers filled in the guide grooves. This reference fails to teach or suggest that the accuracy of the center-to-center dimension between the grooves adjacent to each other is within $\pm 0.5 \mu\text{m}$, and the degree of parallelization in the groove length direction between the grooves adjacent to each other is within ± 0.1 degree.

Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. JP 08-019878 to Ogaki discloses a guide groove for an optical fiber formed by a laser beam. This reference also fails to teach or suggest that the accuracy of the center-to-center dimension between the grooves adjacent to each other is within $\pm 0.5 \mu\text{m}$, and the degree of parallelization in the groove length direction between the grooves adjacent to each other is within ± 0.1 degree.

Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. JP 2002-040293 to Kato et al. is directed to a ferrule for an optical fiber including a plurality of insertion holes for inserting optical fibers therein. The insertion holes are formed by a laser beam. While this reference suggests that the accuracy of the position of the insertion holes is within $0.05 \mu\text{m}$, it fails to teach or suggest that the degree of parallelization in the groove length direction between the grooves adjacent to each other is within ± 0.1 degree.

Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. JP 09-120014 to Ota et al. discloses an optical fiber array including a substrate having V-shaped guides for inserting optical fibers and a press plate for fixing the inserted optical fibers. This reference also suggests that the V-shaped guide is formed by a pulsed laser beam. However, this reference fails to teach or suggest the accuracy of the center-to-center dimension between the grooves adjacent to each other is within $\pm 0.5 \mu\text{m}$, and the degree of parallelization in the groove length direction between the grooves adjacent to each other is within ± 0.1 degree.

Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. JP 2002-156548 is directed to a ferrule for an optical fiber including a plurality of insertion holes for inserting optical fibers therein. The inner walls of the insertion holes are subjected to an etching treatment. This reference also fails to teach or suggest that the accuracy of the center-to-center dimension between the grooves adjacent to each other is within $\pm 0.5 \mu\text{m}$, and the degree of parallelization

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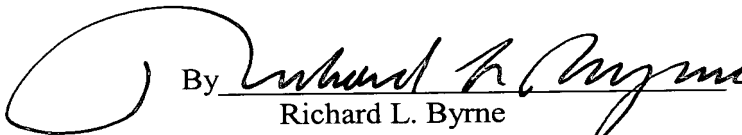
in the groove length direction between the grooves adjacent to each other is within ± 0.1 degree.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1), the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information cited on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A was first cited in a communication mailed April 7, 2006, from the Japanese Patent Office in a counterpart Japanese application not more than three months prior to the filing of the accompanying Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

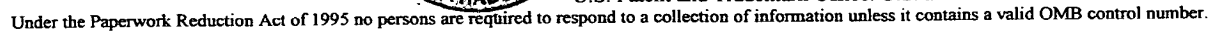
No fee is believed to be due for the filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement as it is being submitted within three months of the date of the Japanese Office Action and includes a statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1). Nevertheless, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-0650. One (1) original and two (2) copies of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

THE WEBB LAW FIRM

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